

ROLE OF COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF KHABAR LAHARIYA NEWSPAPER OF INDIA

Garima Sharma

Research Scholar, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Banasthali Vidyapith

Dr. Lokesh Sharma (Corresponding Author)

Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Banasthali Vidyapith,
Orcid id: **0000-0002-0980-9207**

Abstract

Participation of women in media is still inadequate and confined to mainstream media of urban and semi-urban areas. The alternate media like community radio and community newspaper opens avenues for the rural women to work as journalist and creates role models for others in the rural communities. This research paper is based on a Community Newspaper i.e. Khabar Lahariya, which is being run by women from underprivileged and backward communities of Indian society. It is the only newspaper in India that is published by a rural woman. It works for local people and disseminate information from local perspective. This paper investigates the strategies adopted by the newspaper to ensure continuous participation of rural women in reporting and writing for the newspaper. This paper also investigates how the continuous engagement of women with the newspaper leads to empowerment. The content analysis method is used to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon wherein interviews of women journalists of the newspaper available on website and YouTube have been analyzed along with the content pertaining to women. The study suggests newspaper adopts a flexible policy of recruitment and other job conditions which encourages local women to participate and contribute in it. The platform enables the women to voice their opinion and concerns which leads to the skill development of the self-expression, confidence and public speaking. Reporting on socio-economic, political and local issues enhances their understanding and empowers them to take decisions in their day-to-day life. The digital transition of the newspaper opens avenues for the rural women to learn digital media skills. The present case study suggests newspaper is playing a significant role in women empowerment by developing the skills of decision-making, self expression, public speaking and digital media.

Keywords: *Community Newspaper; Khabar Lahariya; Rural Women; Skill Development; Empowerment.*

1. Introduction

In the heart of every thriving community lies the essence of empowerment of women. In rural areas, where gender disparities persist and opportunities are often limited, the role of community newspapers in empowering rural women becomes even more crucial. Khabar Lahariya acts as a powerful catalyst for change, serving not only as a source of information but also as a platform for advocacy, education and community-building. Through their localized approach and targeted

content, community newspapers have the potential to uplift, inspire, and transform the lives of rural women, breaking down barriers and paving the way for gender equality.

This newspaper is renowned for its "authentic" journalism from rural India. It stands as a testament to the fact that in a democracy, a powerful and independent fourth estate is as essential as any other service, in every single village or town. With the motto "It's your news, in your voice." Khabar Lahariya has 30 women reporters and journalists who support fair and independent rural media in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. They include Dalits, tribals, Muslims and non-Muslims. A backward caste woman runs a newspaper and promotes literacy in a male-dominated rural area. Written, illustrated, produced, and marketed by a group of women, Khabar Lahariya facilitates marginalized rural people, especially women, to earn a decent living and helps transforming their identities from housewives to recognized "journalists." They firmly believe that all people, regardless of socioeconomic status, are capable of driving the change they need.

Their development engagement and executive responsibilities include building women-led strong institutions that enable active participation in key decision-making processes in society and within households, generating locally sustainable livelihood models in rural areas, promoting and integrating gender equality in all community engagement initiatives, and creating large-scale system change in rural areas.

In the context of the public sphere and the role of community media in enabling citizens' active participation in democracy, this paper explores various perspectives on development. These include themes such as diversity, the digital divide, human welfare, community-oriented participatory initiatives, social justice, and transparent modes of collective action, reflecting new priorities. The paper asserts the heuristic value of alternative, local, and non-Western experience and knowledge systems in the task of social change.

While the libertarian perspective assumes that all people desire to become fully human - free and self-reliant - and have the internal capacity to develop themselves on their own terms. Khabar Lahariya, through its dedicated and diverse team of rural journalists, strives to break these barriers and empower marginalized communities, particularly women, in their journey toward self-reliance and recognition in society.

1.1 Background of Khabar Lahariya

Khabar Lahariya, a pioneering rural newspaper in India, has a remarkable origin story. It was founded by Kavita Devi and Meera Jatav, who were inspired to create this platform for change after participating in a literacy camp conducted by the Delhi-based NGO Nirantar, dedicated to women's rights. The first issue of Khabar Lahariya was published in Bundeli on 30 May 2002 in Karwi town of Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh. Initially, a group of six women fought with the media. In 2013, "The Newspaper" welcomed the digital age with the advent of digital paper.

The newspaper initially focused on problems faced by villagers such as violence against women, discrimination, and harassment of Dalits, farmer nature, water security and public health. It provides a comprehensive overview of those often overlooked by mainstream media, making their stories impactful. They also began to appear in national and international media. Kavita Devi is prominent in Khabar Lahariya and is the only Dalit member of the Editors Guild of India.

The documentary "Writing with Fire", directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, tells the extraordinary journey of Khabar Lahariya. This document shows how the seemingly elusive dream of Dalit women journalists in India has become a reality, challenging age-old traditions and ideologies about social responsibility regarding women. The film won many international awards, including the Sundance Film Festival Impact Shift Special Jury Prize, the Sundance Film Festival Audience Award, and the Best Documentary Award at various American film festivals. More importantly, it was also nominated for Best Documentary (Drama) at the 94th Academy Awards in 2021.

Women journalists in Bundelkhand, led by Mehra, have shown determination to fight corruption in the Uttar Pradesh government. Equipped with simple devices such as smartphones rather than complex ones, they are not afraid to follow stories about victims and perpetrators of corruption, gender-based violence and gender and racial discrimination. By drawing the attention of the government and police to these injustices, they exposed them through the Khabar Lahariya newspaper and informed the public about these issues every day. The documentary begins with a rape investigation and proves the courage and determination of these women in their role in social change.

2. Literature Review

According to Quebral (2012), Women's empowerment is regarded as a technique for attaining both human rights and economic growth. Giving women access to knowledge that will help to make educated decisions in all areas of their lives, including family planning, poverty reduction, agriculture, economic empowerment, and participation in public life, is one method to do this. All of these development-related issues may be greatly helped by and addressed by community radio. Development is viewed as a comprehensive process of raising not just the standard of life but also control over the defining of such standards in the socioeconomic and gender analyses.

Dr. Gowri Diwaker, (2013) Presents Women are the central focus in rural areas and the national economy. Due to a predominately patriarchal society, unfavorable stereotypes are established for women in our country. The main reason behind this is gender discrimination, lack of literacy and economic resources, lack of representation, and involvement in decision-making lead to this marginalized status in rural areas. This paper shares the examples of Khabar Lahariya's brave women who have successfully brought written news, information, and knowledge into the Rural hinterland in India. Communication is extremely important for women's development and to represent their own reality they should experience first and should be the subjects of their own

development. Nirantar, a nongovernmental organization that runs this khabar Lahariya, provides skills or training to new journalists on newsgathering, writing, and editing along with an understanding of gender, rights and development, language, and so on.

Ranu Tomar, (2014) explores How women work with Khabar Lahariya and their struggle with rural participatory society. It examines the overlooked subject of family versus job. With the Observational method, Qualitative approach and Secondary data literature review this research paper explores the personal journey of women journalists as well. Khabar Lahariya breaks language hegemony in the region where the Hindi language is used as an ideological tool for the ruling elite. With the help of fieldwork coverage, Dalit women are able to talk to village *Pradhan*, the head of the village. Which challenges the male-dominated and patriarchal society to which they belong.

Md Afsar & Suman Kumari, (2020) the author said medium of communication allows rural women from rural India to talk and discuss their strengths, rights over knowledge, social and other topics. This paper talks about the impact and use of technology by women journalists in rural India and how this technology is helping them in upliftment, news gathering, news creation, and broadcasting. Now rural women are familiar with how to navigate the arena, how to questions about wrong things, and how to fix problems with the help of technology. This gives them the power to raise a voice against all kinds of acts of violence, inequalities, and injustice to them.

Annapurna Sinha & Kanchan K. Malik, (2020) reveals the report illustrates how Khabar Lahariya evolved from a study aid for neo-literate women participating in an NGO's literacy intervention to a stand-alone "media agency" with connections to a variety of media channels.

Krishna et al. (2021) found the potential of mobiles for development (M4D). The use of smartphones empowered journalist of Khabar Lahariya to strengthen their voice across media platforms. It is sufficient to state that mobile communication, particularly smartphone communication, has carved out a position for itself in the field of rural development. The way information is distributed and how messages are designed has seen notable modifications.

Sharma (2022) in his book '**Community Radio and Empowerment: An empirical study on rural empowerment by Community Radio Statistics of Rajasthan (India)**' explored and examined the role of community radio stations in empowering the rural communities of Rajasthan, India. The process of empowerment of volunteers through the community radio participation has also been explained and concluded that Community radio is a type of participatory media with the ability to reach and include the community radio networks which seeks to improve the skills and knowledge of the marginalized community through the involvement and participation in the development of programming.

Harishma Hari K & Khamarunnisa P.A, (2022) Explain the documentary work "Writing with Fire" directed by Rintu and Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh. With content analysis explain how a group of Dalit women can break stereotypes of news media in India. The paper showcases the redefinition

of representation and power of Dalit women. With their smartphones, Khabar Lahariya journalists show issues in rural areas through digital platforms. The efforts of journalists are the means to break the norms of ostracizing Dalit women, and this study tries to identify the possibility of redefining the inclusion of the Dalit community.

The number of instances that their news coverage contributed to having prosecuted and the extent to which they were able to draw the authority's attention to the problem in the community are further measures of their success.

Annapurna Sinha, (2022) presents the Struggle and success of community media journalists. So many Khabar Lahariya journalists Face struggles, gender-based issues, and violence in their own life, and the empathic approach can easily reflect in their reporting. Researchers observed that journalists take too much on themselves in doing their jobs and put their safety at risk. Khabar Lahariya publishes their work both in text and video, also some other English portals as well after observing the relevance of the matter.

3. Objectives

- To analyze the content of Khabar Lahariya newspaper from the perspective of rural women empowerment.
- To analyze the impact of women's participation on social status of women.
- To understand various aspects of development and empowerment for rural women.

4. Research Methodology and Design

The methodology adopted for this study is exploratory, employing a content analysis approach. The exploratory research methodology allows for the data collection, analysis, and interpretation of observations pertaining to current plans, systems, models, abstract ideas, and concepts. The secondary data available on digital archives of Khabar Lahariya have been used to analyze the content. These archives provide valuable insights into the journalistic representation of rural issues and the changes observed over the years. Interviews with the founders and reporters available on Khabar Lahariya platform and YouTube have also been analyzed to have firsthand information and understand the perspectives on the development of communication patterns employed.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data analysis involves a thematic approach. The collected data, including documents and interview transcripts coded and categorized into themes and sub-themes. These themes emerged from the research objectives and new trends identified in the literature. The statistical techniques have been used to analyze the content of the newspaper quantitatively. Analysis involves interpreting data to identify key findings and draw conclusions.

(Time Period: July- September 2023)

Table: 5.1

Themes of Content

Themes	विकास	असर	महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा	औरतें काम पर
No. of news stories	23	15	27	10

A number of news stories under the themes of [विकास](#), [असर](#), [महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा](#), [औरतें काम पर](#) the relevant to women issues have been considered for the analysis from the online version of the Khabar Lahariya home page portal. Topics were selected because they were relevant to the overall goals of the community-based intervention activities, which were focused on women. Content in the newspaper that is related to the topics, such as rape, harassment, domestic violence, dowry, government policies, self-employment, women in work, impact, crime news, and the Kavita show. The content of each theme has been analyzed and represented graphically.

Table: 5.2

Content of the Theme- [विकास](#)

S. No.	Content	Frequency	% Content
1	Government Fail Plan	9	39.13
2	Health plan/ issues	3	13.04
3	Election opinion	3	13.04
4	Women Initiatives	2	8.07
5	Local Issues	3	13.04
6	Women education	3	13.04
	Total	23	100

"Government Fail Plan" is the most discussed topic, with a frequency of 9, making up 39.13% of the total content. This suggests a significant focus on critiquing government plans and policies. "Health plan/issues" and "Election opinion" both have frequencies of 3, contributing to 13.04% each, indicating balanced attention to health-related concerns and political opinions. "Women Initiatives," "Local Issues," and "Women Study" all have frequencies of 2 or 3, accounting for approximately 8.07% to 13.04%, reflecting a diverse range of subjects related to women's initiatives, local problems, and academic pursuits. The data's total frequency is 23, and the percentages collectively sum up to 100%. This data highlights a substantial focus on government plans, with additional discussions on health, elections, women's initiatives, local issues, and women's studies, indicating a broad range of topics under consideration. The same has been presented graphically in figure 5.2.

Content of the Theme- विकास

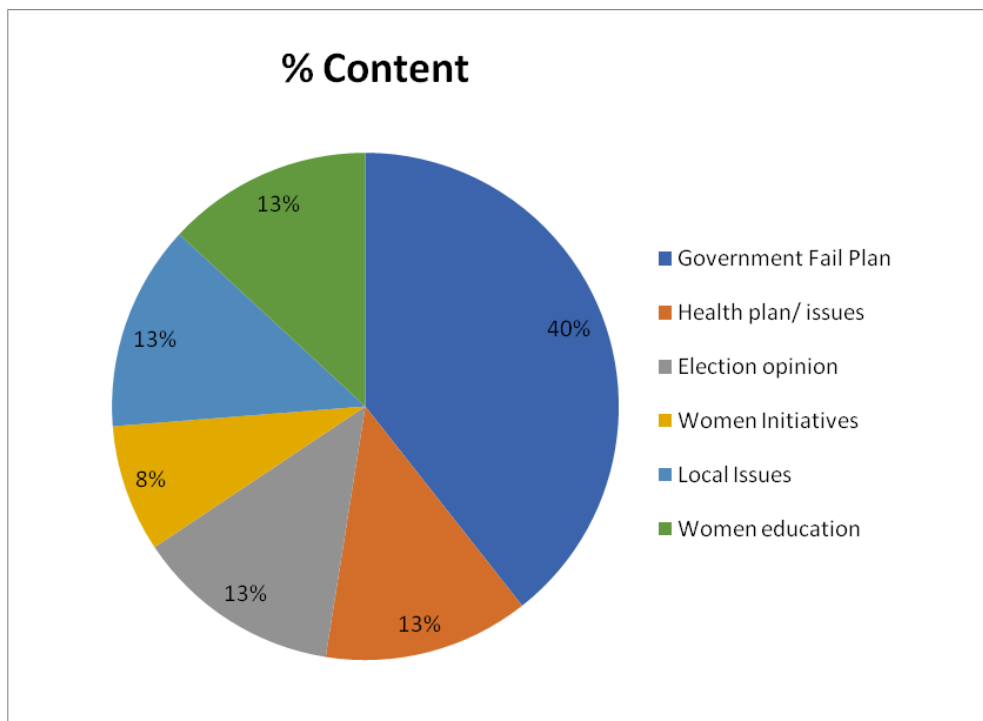


Figure 5.2

Table: 5.3
Content of the Theme- असर

S. No.	Content	Frequency	% Content
1	Women Entrepreneurship	11	73.33
2	Women Training	1	6.67
3	Women rights	2	13.33
4	Low earning	1	6.67
Total		15	100

"Women Entrepreneurship" is the dominant category with a frequency of 11, making up 73.33% of the total content, suggesting a strong focus on women's entrepreneurial activities. "Women Training" and "Low Earning" are frequencies of 1 and 2, respectively, making up 6.67% each. "Women Training" relates to programs educating women, while "Low Earning" may imply discussions on women's income disparities. "Women Rights" has a frequency of 2, contributing to 13.33% of the content, indicating attention to legal, social, and political rights for women. The data's total frequency is 15, and the percentages collectively sum up to 100%. The same has been presented graphically in figure 5.3.

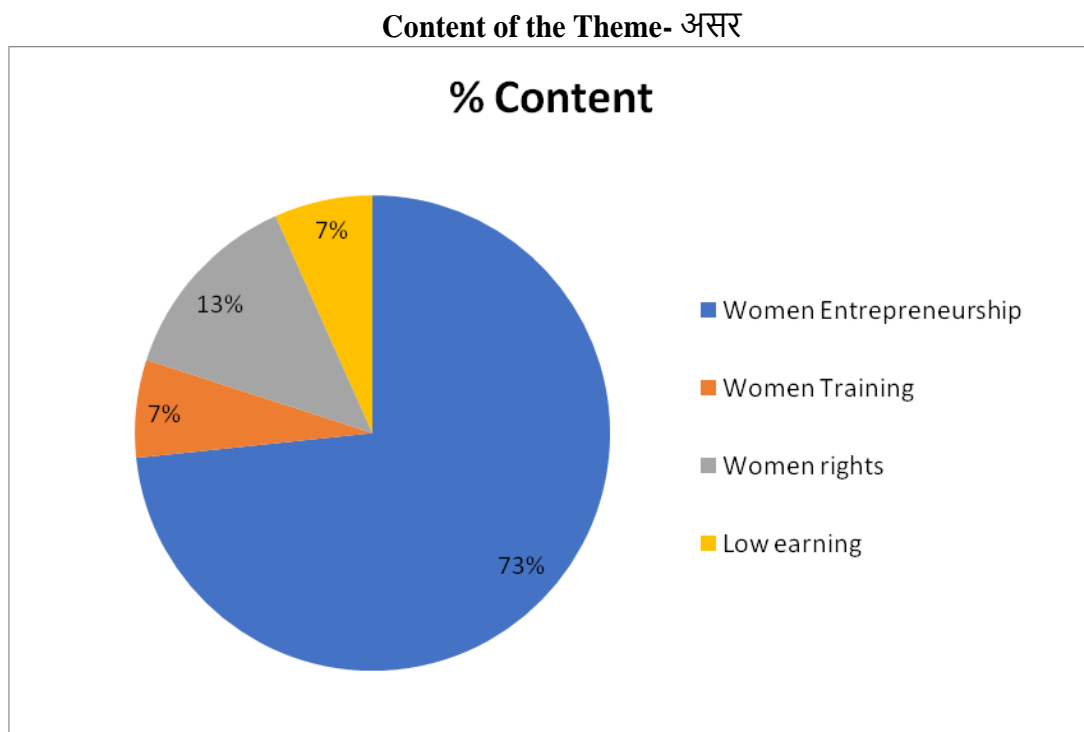


Figure 5.3

Table: 5.4
Content of the Theme- महिलाओं के खिलाफ हिंसा

S. No.	Content	Frequency	%
1	Rape	7	25.93
2	Untouchability	2	7.41
3	Dowery	2	7.41
4	Domestic violence	3	11.11
5	Sexual Harassment	6	22.22
6	Acid News	1	3.70
7	Suicide	1	3.70
8	Women study	2	7.41
9	Missing women	1	3.70
10	Murder	2	7.41
Total		27	100

"Rape" is the most discussed category, with a frequency of 7, making up 25.93% of the total content, highlighting the concern surrounding this issue. "Sexual Harassment" is the second most prominent category, with a frequency of 6, accounting for 22.22%, indicating a significant focus on this topic. "Domestic violence" follows with a frequency of 3, making up 11.11% of the content.

Issues like "Untouchability," "Dowry," "Women Study," and "Murder" each have frequencies of 2, contributing to 7.41% of the content, reflecting balanced attention to these concerns. Categories like "Acid News," "Suicide," and "Missing Women" have lower frequencies of 1, each making up 3.70%. The data's total frequency is 27, and the percentages collectively sum up to 100%, providing an overview of the distribution of discussions on these sensitive topics.

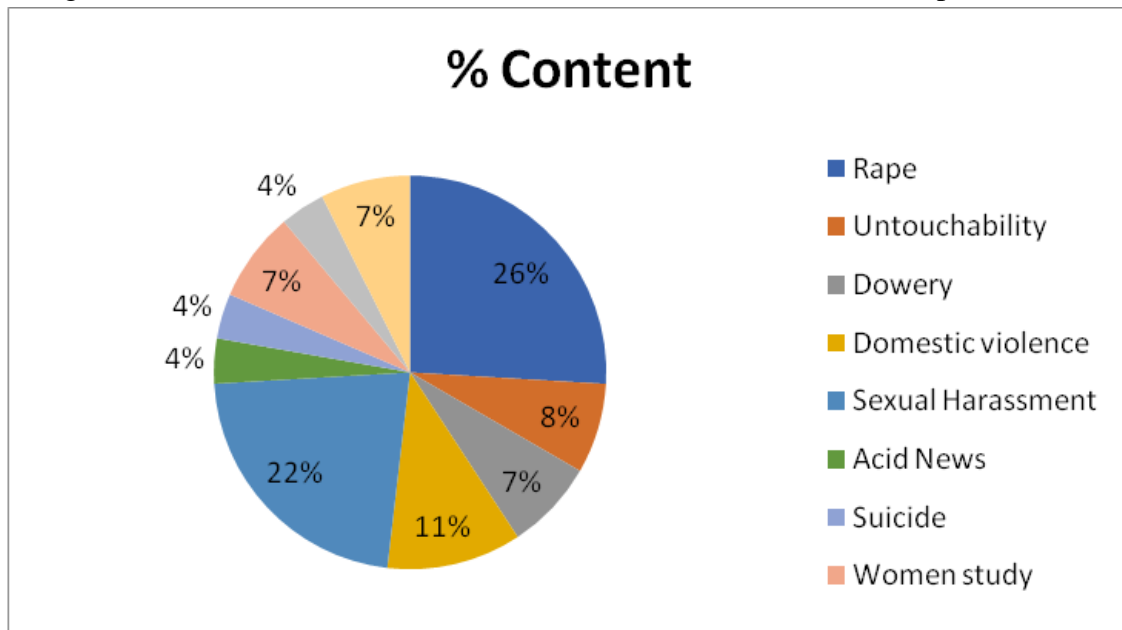


Figure 5.4

Table: 5.5
Content of the Theme- औरतें काम पर

S. No.	Content	Frequency	%Content
1	Agriculture work	2	20
2	Self Initiative and giving jobs	2	20
3	Startup	5	50
4	Learning	1	10
total		10	100

"Startup" stands out as the dominant topic with a frequency of 5, making up 50% of the total content, signifying a significant focus on entrepreneurial ventures. "Agriculture work" and "Self Initiative and giving jobs" each have frequencies of 2, contributing to 20% each. This suggests that there is equal attention on agriculture-related work and self-initiative in job creation. Learning" has a frequency of 1, making up 10% of the content. The total frequency in this dataset is 10, and the percentages sum up to 100%.

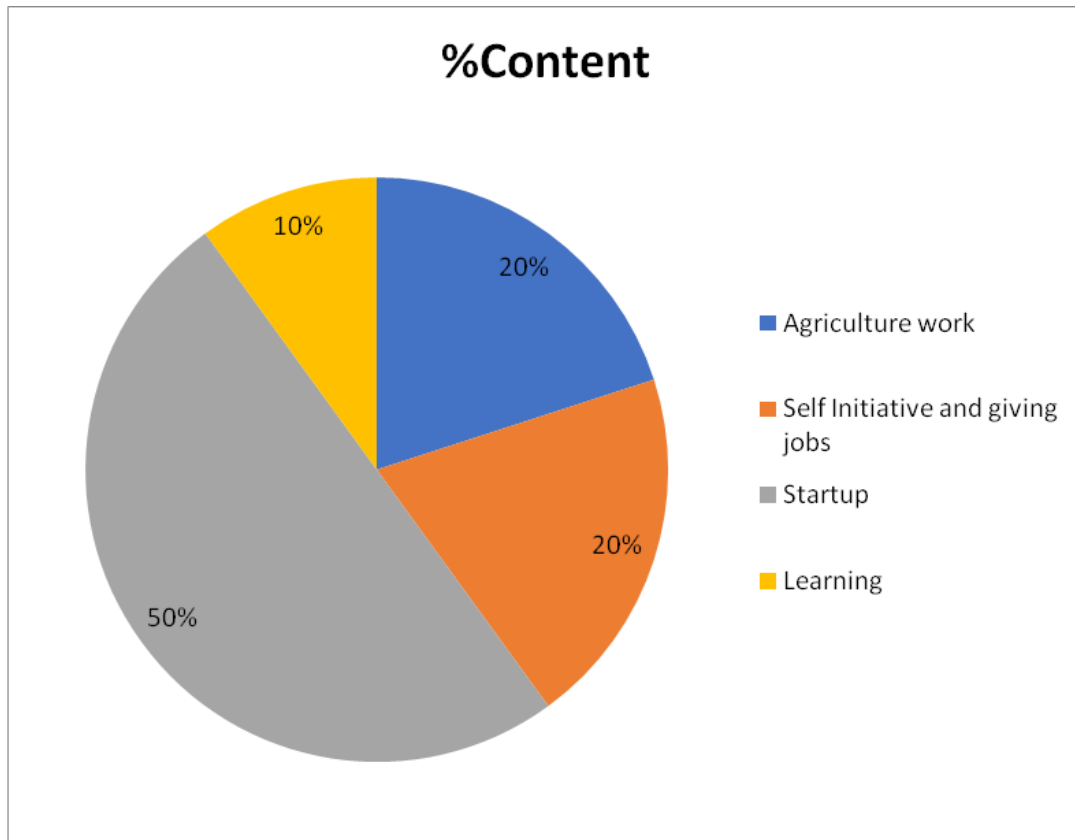


Figure 5.5

5.1 Interviews

To complement Kavita's insights, interviews with Khabar Lahariya reporters provided firsthand accounts of their journeys:

- Shyamkali, who initially grappled with hesitancy and fear when reporting, has found her confidence through her work at Khabar Lahariya. She no longer feels the paralyzing fear that once held her back, recognizing the value she brings as a journalist. Her newfound strength and determination have become emblematic of her journey, and her dream of supporting her children's education drives her.
- Susheela, responsible for distributing the newspaper and gathering stories, travels to often-overlooked areas, such as Mahua and Durgapur. She seeks out stories that reflect the issues faced by communities, including those related to education and women. Her dedication to reporting from these regions underscores Khabar Lahariya's commitment to covering stories that often remain untold.
- Rupali Shrivastav plays a crucial role as both a reporter and a computer operator. Her responsibilities include typing stories, formatting, inserting photographs, proofreading, and managing communications. Despite limited prior knowledge of internet usage and software like PageMaker, she underwent training to acquire these skills. Her journey from inexperience to proficiency reflects her determination to excel in her multifaceted role.

- Usha Jaatav's story is one of continuous learning and personal growth. While she initially harbored fears about long-distance travel to villages, she has gradually overcome them. Her limited formal education did not deter her from pursuing a career in journalism, a dream rooted in her passion for learning and her desire to study and work. Stepping out of her house for the first time to join Khabar Lahariya marked a significant milestone in her life, and she continues to relish her role as a reporter.
- Sunita's ambition to join the police force, inspired by her love for engaging with boys and taking on challenging tasks, reflects her fearlessness. She believes that being housebound is her only fear and she embraces the essential qualities of a reporter: sources, conveyance, and strength. Her passion for gaining knowledge drives her in her journalistic endeavours.
- Shivdevi's journey is a testament to perseverance and self-determination. Her decision to become a journalist enabled her to purchase land, despite her limited formal education and the lack of support from her in-laws. Joining Mahila Samakhya and completing her studies within six months underscore her unwavering commitment to personal and professional growth. Today, she stands proudly as a journalist, having overcome numerous obstacles on her path to independence.

In a recent interview with the Splice Low YouTube channel, Kavita, Editor-in-chief at Khabar Lahariya, shared insights into the newspaper's mission, the impact of its work, and the transformative journey of its female reporters. This interview sheds light on Khabar Lahariya's unique approach to journalism and its role in empowering women in India.

5.1.1 Gender Disparities in Media

Kavita began by highlighting the stark gender disparities she observed upon joining Khabar Lahariya. She noted that while her organization consisted entirely of women, most local media outlets were predominantly male. These male reporters often hailed from urban, upper-caste backgrounds, were well-educated, and came from privileged economic backgrounds. Many were landlords or had affiliations with political parties. Kavita's observations underscored the lack of diversity in traditional media.

5.1.2 The Quest for Gender Diversity

Kavita explained that Khabar Lahariya's primary objective was to address the underrepresentation of women in Indian journalism. In a patriarchal society, women were often deemed too vulnerable for the demanding field of journalism and were, in many cases, confined to traditional roles. Khabar Lahariya aimed to challenge these stereotypes by actively recruiting women, especially those from marginalized communities. They sought to empower Dalit, Muslim, Adivasi, economically disadvantaged, and semi-literate women. Kavita emphasized that finding literate women, particularly those with only primary education, was a considerable challenge when Khabar Lahariya was founded in 2002.

5.1.3 Diverse News Coverage

Khabar Lahariya's commitment to diversity extended beyond its staffing. They aimed to diversify the news itself by moving away from the prevalent focus on political news and urban-centric reporting. Instead, they ventured into remote villages and areas typically overlooked by mainstream media. Their coverage included Adivasi communities, remote jungle areas, regions inaccessible to most media outlets, and areas occupied by dacoits. Through their reporting, Khabar Lahariya also exposed local-level corruption involving government officials.

5.1.4 Transition to Digital Media

In 2015, Khabar Lahariya transitioned to digital media, a significant turning point in their journey. Kavita explained that this transition involved comprehensive training for all-female journalists in using smartphones, recording, editing, production intricacies, basic journalism, and digital skills. This shift allowed them to adapt to evolving media landscapes and reach wider audiences.

5.1.5 Impact on Reporters

Kavita highlighted the profound impact of Khabar Lahariya on both individual reporters and their communities. Several reporters, who had previously faced educational barriers, were able to complete their schooling after joining Khabar Lahariya. This achievement had a significant personal impact, allowing them to pursue education they had long desired. Notably, some reporters had minimal literacy skills before joining, with the ability to write only their name and village. Today, they write scripts and send reports with confidence.

5.1.6 Economic Empowerment and Social Respect

Another notable impact was economic empowerment. Female reporters at Khabar Lahariya became breadwinners in their families, enabling them to support their households, pay bills, send their children to school, and manage financial matters. Simultaneously, society began to respect them for their contributions, challenging traditional gender norms.

5.1.7 Safety and Equality:

Addressing safety concerns, Kavita emphasized that women journalists are often questioned about their safety more than their male counterparts. However, she asserted that safety measures at Khabar Lahariya were on par with industry standards, and all incidents were reported promptly to the police. Kavita emphasized that gender should not affect perceptions of safety in journalism, and all journalists, regardless of gender, face risks.

5.1.8 Diversity as a Core Value:

Kavita concluded by underlining the importance of diversity at Khabar Lahariya, stating that it was integral to their work culture. She emphasized that diversity should extend to all aspects of journalism, including reporting, staffing, and engagement with rural communities.

5.1.9 Community Engagement and Impact Measurement

Khabar Lahariya actively engages with its audience through social media, analyzing comments and feedback to gain insights into the issues that concern their community. This approach ensures that their reporting remains relevant and resonates with their readership.

5.1.10 Fearlessness in Journalism:

Kavita expressed her own fearlessness in journalism, highlighting that, after years of working in challenging environments; she had mentally trained herself not to be scared. Regardless of the story's dangers, she remained committed to her duty to society and pledged to report the truth.

6. Results and Discussion

The observation of the contents of newspapers gives a clear picture of the coverage of development programs in the newspapers. Newspaper is categorized in different themes but they didn't shift their view from women. The news of complaints against various government offices and agencies has also been given in detail. Even the problems of various sections of the society at individual level have been highlighted in a very comprehensive manner. Local community newspapers play a crucial role in disseminating information and engaging with residents on a variety of topics that have a direct impact on their daily lives. In the latest edition of the Khabar Lahariya newspaper, there was extensive coverage of the issue of sexual assault, shining a spotlight on the disturbing incidents occurring within rural areas. By reporting on these incidents and the subsequent legal proceedings, newspapers aim to increase awareness, foster accountability, and stimulate discussions on strategies to prevent and combat sexual violence.

Another significant concern within any community is employment. Women's entrepreneurship is a source of inspiration and economic growth in rural settings. These news articles celebrate the accomplishments of local women who have embarked on entrepreneurial journeys, offering valuable insights for aspiring female business owners. Khabar Lahariya's comprehensive coverage of employment-related topics encompasses job opportunities, profiles of local businesses, such as kitchen gardens, makeup artists, and handloom work. This information empowers rural readers with knowledge about potential career prospects and supports community members in their pursuit of livelihoods. It encourages them to explore various employment opportunities and consider new ideas to earn a living.

Education plays a pivotal role in empowering women. These news emphasize the importance of women's education in nurturing personal growth, expanding career opportunities, and driving social progress. Furthermore, community newspapers acknowledge the sensitive issue of untouchability within rural areas, striving to create awareness about the persistence of this social problem and advocating for its eradication. Dowry is another deeply entrenched social issue that disproportionately affects women and their families. Newspaper coverage seeks to draw attention to the harmful consequences of dowry practices and encourages discussions on eliminating this detrimental tradition. Additionally, these newspapers take a firm stance against harassment and

domestic violence. Through their reporting, readers gain access to information about support services, legal remedies, and strategies to prevent and address abuse within households. Keeping the community informed about government policies and their implications is vital for overall community development. The newspaper diligently analyzes and reports on policies that impact the welfare of our community, ensuring that our readers are well-informed about decisions that directly affect their lives. The number of news indicates that the newspaper paid significant attention to critical issues that affect women. Employment-related news was the most frequent, highlighting various aspects of women's employment, and reflecting the importance of economic empowerment for women in rural areas. Khabar Lahariya follows a community-based reporting approach, with local rural women serving as a reporter. This ensures that the stories are closely tied to the local context and issues of the community.

7. Conclusion

The analysis of Kavita's interview and the stories of Khabar Lahariya's reporters showcase the profound impact of this community newspaper in empowering women and challenging gender norms in Indian journalism. Their commitment to diversity, fearless reporting, and dedication to their communities stand as an inspiring example of grassroots journalism driving social change. This newspaper stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment in the realm of rural journalism, demonstrating the transformative potential of community newspapers led by resilient women. In the face of significant challenges, including educational barriers and societal prejudices, the women of Khabar Lahariya have not only become proficient journalists but have also achieved personal growth and economic empowerment. They have rewritten their own narratives, becoming breadwinners in their families and gaining respect within their communities. The story of Khabar Lahariya is not just about journalism; it's about empowerment, education, and breaking down barriers. It exemplifies the potential of community newspapers to uplift, inspire, and transform the lives of rural women, ultimately contributing to the broader goal of gender equality in society. Khabar Lahariya's journey serves as a testament to the resilience of women and the power of media as a catalyst for change, offering valuable lessons for the world on the importance of diversity and inclusion in journalism.

Bibliography

- Afsar, M., & Kumari, S. (2020). Empowerment Of Women Journalists Through Technology In Rural Areas Of India. In *3rd International Conference On Advanced Research In Social Science And Humanities*, 34â (Vol. 43).
- Diwaker, G. (2013). Empowerment and transformation: a case study of communication skills of Dalit women in India.
- Hari K, H., & P A, K. (2022). The Politics of Representation Dalit Women: A Study of the Newspaper Khabar Lahariya and the Documentary Writing with Fire. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 24(7)

- Kusuma, K. S., Paul, P. R. A. G. A. T. I., & Biswal, S. K. (2021). MOJO in Development Communication: Mediating Social Change and Empowerment through Mobile Phones in India.
- Pareek, R., Sharma, L., & Drolia, R. (2023). Community Radio Empowering the Rural Women of Rajasthan in India. *Journal of Communication and Management*, 2(02), 81–87. <https://doi.org/10.58966/JCM2023221>
- Quebral, N. C. (2012). The role of community radio in empowering women in India. *Media Asia*, 42(1-2), 41-46. The underside of communication in development. *Nordicom Review*, 33(Special Issue), 59-64.
- Sharma, L. (2023) 'Community Radio Sustaining and Promoting Rural Entrepreneurship in India', *Chetana International Journal of Education*, ISSN 2455-8729, 8(1), pp. 180-195 [Online]. Available at: <http://echetana.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/741.-R-E-Lokesh-Sharma-FCRS.pdf>
- Sharma, L., Kiran, P. & Kumar, G. (2022) 'Community radio developing the skills of self expression and public speaking in rural communities', *International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education*, ISSN: 1308-5581, 14(4), pp. 638-651 [Online]. Available at: <https://www.int-jecse.net/abstract.php?id=2912>
- Sharma, L., Rathore, H., & Kiran, P. (2021) 'Community Radio By Marginalized Communities: A Study Of Socio-Economic Profile Of Community Radio Volunteers', *International Journal of Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity*, ISSN: 2207-8363, 12(1), pp. 590-606 [Online]. Available at: <http://sersc.org/journals/index.php/IJDRBC>
- Sharma, L., Rathore, H., & Sharma, G. (2021). Effectiveness of Community Radio In Preservation And Promotion Of The Indigenous Culture. *PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION JOURNAL*, 58(1): 5678-5691 [Online]. Available at: www.psychologyandeducation.net
- Sharma, L., Rathore, H., & Sharma, G. (2020). Empowering Rural Communities through Community Radio Training Programmes: A Case Study of Banasthali Community FM Radio Station. *International Journal of Communication and Media Studies (IJCMS)*, 10(3), pp. 1- 12 [Online]. Available at: www.tjprc.org
- Quebral, N. C. (2012). The role of community radio in empowering women in India. *Media Asia*, 42(1-2), 41-46. The underside of communication in development. *Nordicom Review*, 33(Special Issue), 59-64.
- Tomar, R. *Khabar Lahariya: A Feminist Critique of Mainstream Hindi Print Media. About SubVersions.*

Internet sources

<https://khabarlahariya.org/category/women-at-work>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f09g5B52RwU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoXUd6DVDPQ&t=60s>

<https://youtu.be/uIcuhJMb1Jw>

<https://youtu.be/ebiGI8aY3do>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnMVtJZg_OI

<https://news.abplive.com/podcasts/ladies-first/interview-with-meera-devi-bureau-chief-khabar-lahariya-who-shares-how-journalism-empowers-women-in-rural-india-1557712>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lm-HETA4jtc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ij46q-54YEW>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E709T7qxJTW>